

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. In the office action mailed October 6, 2004, Claims 1-61 were pending, and made subject to restriction requirement and further to an election of species requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Particularly, the Examiner indicated the existence of two patentably distinct inventions in the claims as follows:

- 1) Group I constituting Claims 1-51, drawn to a method, classified in class 604, subclasses 501; and
- 2) Group II constituting Claims 52-61, drawn to a device, classified in class 604, subclass 20. The Examiner further indicated the existence of eight patentably distinct species within Group I and two species within Group II as follows:

Group I

- a) Fig. 1,
- b) Fig. 2,
- c) Fig. 3,
- d) Fig. 4,
- e) Fig. 5,
- f) Fig. 6,
- g) Fig. 7, and
- h) Fig. 8.

Group II

- a) Fig. 9, and
- b) Fig. 10

Finally, the Examiner indicated that Claim 1 was generic with respect to Group I, and that no claim was generic with respect to Group II.

A review of Claims 1-51 in Group I reveals that Claims 1-29, 34-35, and 45 read on Fig. 2 (Species b). Therefore, pursuant to the present election of Group I, Species b, Claims 1-29, 34-35, and 45 remain pending for consideration in the present application, and Claims 30-33, 36-44, and 44-61 are withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

If any impediment remains to examination after consideration of the above-recited remarks, which could be removed during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone Mr. David Osborne of this office, or in his absence, the undersigned attorney at (801) 566-6633 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 6th day of January, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Wayne Western
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 22,788

David W. Osborne
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,989

Of:

Thorpe North & Western, LLP
8180 South 700 East, Suite 200
Sandy, UT 84070
Telephone: (801) 566-6633
Facsimile: (801) 566-0750